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CABLE ADDRESS "WATSOLAW"

December 17, 1963

Mr. Robert P. Roper, Vice President
Philip Morris Incorporated
100 Park Avenue
New York 17, N.Y.

Our File 582-275

Dear Mr. Roper:

I received today a copy of a patent to Parmele (Lorillard Co.) No. 3,112,755 which issued December 3, 1963. I had noted a reference to it in the United States Patent Office Official Gazette and I now find it corresponds to the British Patent No. 932,988 which I sent you yesterday covering the addition of citric acid to smoking tobacco.

The patent asserts that tobacco smoke inhibits the action of the cilia in the respiratory tract and the inventor made the surprising discovery that the addition of citric acid to the tobacco neutralizes the inhibiting action on the cilia. I did not think Lorillard would obtain the U.S. patent, but apparently they succeeded in convincing the Examiner that it produced an unusual and surprising effect other than the mere adding of flavor to the smoke.

Sincerely,

E. R. Helferich
E. R. Helferich

Enc.

Since strength may also have some effect on ciliary motion.

Since the patent specifically mentions citric acid, other organic acids such as lactic acid should be tried immediately.

A Bailey: Could this be simply a pH function? Hwabe

Possibly citric acid & other organic acids, & glucose at suff. high levels will lower the pH of smoke.

A.B.

Because of considerable prior art I doubt the validity of this patent.

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